



Indiana Crop & Weather Report

INDIANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS
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CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING AUGUST 20

Hot weather helped corn and soybeans advance toward maturity. Temperatures reached the ninety degree range in most areas of the state, according to the Indiana Agricultural Statistics Service. Sudden death syndrome is showing up in some soybean fields, primarily in the western areas of the state. Major farm activities during the week included baling hay, mowing roads and pastures, repairing equipment, selling grain, and preparing equipment for fall harvest.

CORN

Corn **condition** declined and is rated 80 percent good to excellent compared with 83 percent last week and 28 percent last year at this time. Ninety-three percent of the corn acreage has reached the **dough** stage on par with last year, but ahead of the 70 percent for the average. Forty-seven percent of the corn acreage is in the **dent** stage compared with 51 percent a year ago and 21 percent for the 5-year average. By region, 36 percent of the corn acreage is in the dent stage in the north, 54 percent in the central region and 57 percent in the south.

SOYBEANS

Soybean **condition** declined and is rated 69 percent good to excellent compared with 73 percent last week and 27 percent last year. Ninety-four percent of the soybean acreage is **setting pods**, on par with a year earlier, but ahead of the 77 percent for the average. By region, 96 percent of the soybean acreage is setting pods in the north, 95 percent in the central region and 89 percent in the south.

OTHER CROPS

Pasture condition is rated 12 percent excellent, 57 percent good, 28 percent fair and 3 percent poor. Third cutting of **alfalfa hay** is 75 percent complete compared with 84 percent a year ago. **Tobacco** harvest is 14 percent complete compared with 20 percent last year at this time.

DAYS SUITABLE and SOIL MOISTURE

For the week ending Friday, 5.5 days were rated **suitable for fieldwork**. **Topsoil moisture** was rated 2 percent very short, 16 percent short, 71 percent adequate and 11 percent surplus. **Subsoil moisture** was rated 5 percent very short, 23 percent short, 66 percent adequate and 6 percent surplus.

CROP PROGRESS

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg
Percent				
Corn in Dough	93	80	93	70
Corn Dent	47	27	51	21
Soybeans Podding	94	84	94	77
Soybeans Sheading Lv	5	NA	5	2
Alfalfa, Third Cutting	75	58	84	NA

CROP CONDITION

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					
Corn	1	3	16	52	28
Soybeans	2	6	23	53	16
Pasture	0	3	28	57	12

SOIL MOISTURE

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
Percent			
Topsoil			
Very Short	2	1	33
Short	16	12	45
Adequate	71	70	22
Surplus	11	17	0
Subsoil			
Very Short	5	3	35
Short	23	20	50
Adequate	66	67	15
Surplus	6	10	0

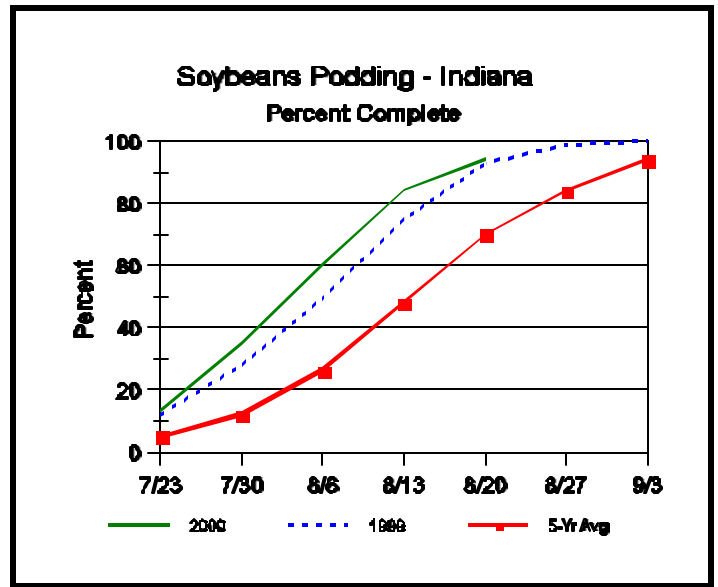
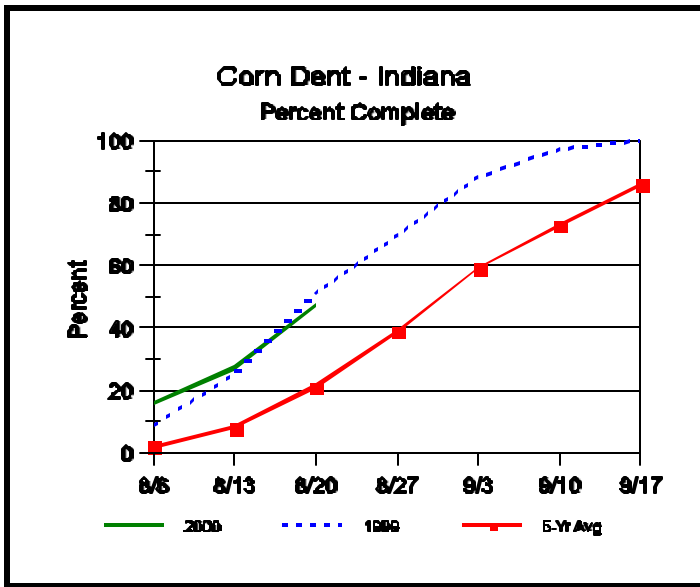
--Ralph W. Gann, State Statistician

--Bud Bever, Agricultural Statistician

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Crop Progress



Yellowing of Soybeans in Dry Areas May or May Not be Due to Two-spotted Spider Mite Feeding

- Many factors can cause yellow soybeans
- Spider mite damage will first show on field edges and/or stressed areas
- Several factors should be considered before treating
- Spot treatments may work if caught early
- High nozzle pressure and plentiful water improves pesticide efficacy

As the rains continue to hit n' miss in Indiana, the areas with little to no rain are observing some soybean fields with yellowing, and in some cases stunting. Although the damage caused by two-spotted spider mites comes to mind, a number of factors can cause leaf yellowing. These include soybean cyst nematode, nutrient deficiencies, thrips, early senescence of leaves due to lack of moisture, diseases, compaction, etc. However, it points out the fact that one should not jump to conclusions concerning the cause of a particular plant problem without making a thorough field evaluation. If the problem is due to spider mites, a good understanding of the pest's biology, level of infestation, potential for damage, and management alternatives is needed to properly deal with the infestation.

Spider mite damage is often first noted on field borders and seemingly spreads to areas of the field

(clay/sand nobs, compacted areas, poor fertility, etc.) where moisture stress has the greatest impact. Where yellowing is observed, two-spotted spider mites could be the culprit. However, before considering control, it is very important that spider mites are identified as the source of the problem. Shake some discolored soybean leaves over a white piece of paper. Watch for small dark specks moving about on the paper. Also look for minute webbing on the undersides of the discolored leaves. Once spider mites have been positively identified in the damaged areas of the field, it is essential that the whole field be scouted to determine the range of infestation. Sample in at least five different areas of the field and determine whether the spider mites are present or not by using the "shake" method.

Reduction of crop yield is directly related to duration and intensity of the mite attack. The most severe damage occurs when the infestation starts in the early stages of plant growth and builds throughout the season. However, a heavy infestation at seed set can still cause economic damage. With the above in mind, it is extremely important that producers closely monitor their fields to determine if they have a mite problem. However, before applying controls there are certain factors that should be taken into consideration. These include:

- 1) Infestation and/or damage level.
 - 2) Short and long range weather forecasts.
- (Continued on Page 4)

Weather Data

Week ending Sunday August 20, 2000

Station	Past Week Weather Summary Data							Accumulation				
	Air Temperature				Precip.		Avg 4 in Soil	April 1, 2000 thru August 20, 2000				
								Precipitation		GDD Base 50°F		
	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days	Temp	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN
Northwest (1)												
Valparaiso_Ag	91	55	70	+0	0.23	1		21.53	+3.09	63	2056	-87
Wanatah	91	48	69	-2	1.47	2	78	21.38	+3.39	56	1998	-53
Wheatfield	92	50	70	+0	0.67	1		20.44	+2.91	46	2147	+44
Winamac	92	53	70	+0	0.61	1	76	18.48	+0.68	51	2095	-74
North Central (2)												
Logansport	92	54	71	-1	0.82	1		19.42	+2.43	58	2172	-54
Plymouth	91	51	69	-3	0.95	2		21.35	+3.28	60	1999	-271
South_Bend	91	51	68	-3	0.60	2		18.77	+1.45	60	2039	-93
Young_America	92	53	70	-2	0.25	1		17.03	+0.04	53	2221	-5
Northeast (3)												
Bluffton	91	54	69	-3	1.37	2	73	19.55	+2.44	61	2185	-98
Fort_Wayne	92	54	69	-3	0.38	1		19.60	+3.54	54	2161	-66
West Central (4)												
Crawfordsville	92	49	70	-2	3.60	1	74	18.61	-0.53	50	2106	-283
Perrysville	93	52	72	+1	0.48	1	77	16.96	-2.26	54	2275	-67
Terre_Haute_Ag	94	56	75	+2	2.02	2	76	25.86	+6.65	56	2637	+141
W_Lafayette_6NW	93	52	71	-1	0.28	1	75	17.26	-0.55	56	2243	+24
Central (5)												
Castleton	90	55	71	-3	1.33	1		24.46	+5.65	70	2315	-143
Greenfield	89	55	70	-3	1.28	1		23.59	+3.63	61	2333	-37
Greensburg	89	54	71	+0	1.23	1		24.21	+4.80	66	2410	+98
Indianapolis_AP	91	59	73	+1	2.34	1		20.91	+2.82	53	2462	-13
Indianapolis_SE	89	55	70	-4	1.90	1		23.12	+4.31	55	2288	-170
Tipton_Ag	90	53	69	-2	1.17	1	74	17.00	-1.10	55	2049	-107
East Central (6)												
Farmland	90	50	68	-3	0.31	1	69	22.75	+5.15	60	2145	+41
New_Castle	85	51	67	-5	0.39	1		22.01	+2.76	55	1896	-257
Southwest (7)												
Dubois_Ag	94	59	75	+2	1.18	1	78	21.69	+0.87	62	2633	+125
Evansville	96	61	77	+2	0.79	1		17.13	-1.21	57	2828	-48
Freelandville	93	59	74	+0	0.65	1		23.67	+4.55	49	2571	-6
Shoals	93	54	73	-1	1.95	1		25.33	+4.59	61	2450	-39
Vincennes_5NE	97	59	76	+2	0.81	1	78	23.65	+4.65	56	2578	+1
South Central (8)												
Bloomington	93	53	73	-2	1.25	1		21.50	+2.25	50	2347	-181
Tell_City	95	58	76	+1	0.69	2		20.48	-0.43	47	2764	+17
Southeast (9)												
Scottsburg	93	55	73	-2	1.15	1		27.90	+8.24	52	2604	+42

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

GDD = Growing Degree Days.

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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Yellowing of Soybeans in Dry Areas May or May Not be Due to Two-spotted Spider Mite Feeding (Continued)

- 3) Presence of diseased spider mites.
- 4) Cost of treatment versus the value of the crop.

When the discoloration from two-spotted spider mite feeding is first noticed along field borders, or in spots within fields, and scouting information from the remainder of the field reveals no movement, then spot treating may suffice. Success of spot treating depends on spraying beyond the infested area, not just the damaged area. Spray a buffer zone 100 to 200 feet beyond spider mite colonized plants. If scouting results indicate that movement has occurred within several areas of a field or throughout a field, then treating the whole field should be considered. Although spot treating was of limited value in 1988 due to the earliness of the infestation, spot treating is a viable option at this time since we are in the advanced stages of plant development.

If a control is warranted, two pesticides are recommended for use. These include dimethoate (Dimethoate 400 and 4 EC) and chlorpyrifos (Lorsban 4E). Proper placement of these pesticides is the key to successful control results. Nozzle pressures of 40 psi and 30-40 gallons of water per acre for ground application helps distribute the pesticide throughout the foliage. If using aerial application, the control material should be applied in 3-5 gallons of finished spray per acre. Normally, aerial applications are not as efficacious as ground applications due to limited surface-area coverage. So where possible, use ground application. Also, research has shown that mite controls work best in the early morning or evening hours. This is primarily due to more stable weather conditions, less convection currents and evaporation, resulting in better targeting of the pesticide.

--Source: John Obermeyer, Rich Edwards, and Larry Bledsoe, Dept. of Entomology, Purdue University.

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